

descriptions of this species convey little notion of its beauty, I sub-join the following notes made from living specimens.

Adult male.—Length $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches, of which the tail was 12. Head and sides of neck pale reddish brown; outer surface of fore-legs and sides a deeper tint of the same hue; medial portion of back light green, brightest in front, where it runs up to a point; posteriorly it merges into a dusky hue. Upper part of tail and outer surface of hind-legs dark brown. Throat, breast and under part of fore-legs white; belly and under surface of hind-legs pale blue; under surface of tail pale blue, medially white. On each shoulder two black spots. The sides of the body and tail, and the front of the hind-legs and feet, are studded with round spots of brilliant azure-blue.

The female differs from the male only in inferior size. The young has no green point on the back, but two rows of bright dots on each side: the tail brilliant azure, metallic-green at the base.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

This Society held its last meeting for the session on Thursday the 13th of July, at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The Rev. Dr. Fleming, President, in the Chair.

Donations to the Herbarium were announced from Dr. Philip W. Maclagan, Canada; Colonel Low, Penang; and Chas. C. Babington, Esq., Cambridge.

The following communications were read:—

1. "On the form of the Capsule and Seeds as affording a specific character in *Primula veris*, Linn., *P. vulgaris*, Huds., and *P. elatior*, Jacq." by the Rev. W. A. Leighton, B.A., Shrewsbury. (See p. 164 of the present number.)

2. "Algæ Orientales:—Descriptions of new species belonging to the genus *Sargassum*," by Dr. Greville (part 1). (See p. 203 of the present number.)

3. "Notice of an Excursion to Lanark on 24th June 1848," by Dr. Balfour.

In this excursion Dr. Balfour was accompanied by upwards of 100 pupils. The party visited Cartland Crags, the Falls of Clyde, and other interesting localities. Among the plants picked were *Vicia sylvatica*, *Neottia nidus avis*, *Melica nutans*, *Vicia Orobus*, *Jasione montana*, *Carex pendula*, *paniculata* and *intermedia*, *Aquilegia vulgaris*, *Trollius europæus*, *Equisetum umbrosum*, *Asplenium viride*, and *Saxifraga oppositifolia*; the two last-mentioned plants were found on the rocks near the Falls at Corra Linn.

4. "Notes of an Excursion to Dunfermline with pupils, on July 8, 1848," by Dr. Balfour.

On this occasion the party visited Charleston, Limekilns, Dunfermline, the banks of the Black Devon, and Knock Hill. Among the more interesting species gathered were *Pyrola media* and *rotundifolia*, *Gymnadenia albida*, *Eleocharis multicaulis*, *Botrychium Lunaria*, *Allosorus crispus*, *Lycopodium Selago*, *Trientalis europæa*, *Hieracium*

inuloides and *rigidum*, *Polygonum viviparum*, *Glaucium luteum*, *Reseda lutea* and in Broomhall Woods *Luzula nivea* and *Lilium Martagon*; the latter probably introduced.

Dr. Balfour also exhibited specimens of *Rosa Brounonii* in fine flower, and stated that the plant had been allowed to spread its branches on the slates of Mr. M'Nab's house, in the Botanic Garden, and that it was then covered with a profusion of showy white blossoms.

Specimens of a secretion resembling mannite, procured from *Eucalyptus dumosa*, were exhibited. The specimens were sent by Sheriff Cay, who had received them from near Melbourne, in Australia.

MISCELLANEOUS.

KELLIA RUBRA.

I HAVE stated, in the Catalogue of the Mollusca of Northumberland and Durham, that the animal of this species has an anterior siphonal tube, as in *Kellia suborbicularis*. While lately stopping in the Isle of Man, I had an opportunity of examining the animal of this minute species more carefully, and have ascertained that the anterior siphon differs from that of *K. suborbicularis* in being open at the base, and is in fact a prolongation of the mantle, folded over on the lower side, like the siphon of the zoophagous Gasteropods; while that of *K. suborbicularis* is a perfect tube, though in both cases it performs the same function, forming a channel for the ingress current of water to the branchiæ, as may be readily seen under the microscope. This new modification of a remarkable form in the bivalve mollusca I wish to take the first opportunity of mentioning, as in the above-named Catalogue I have instanced the similarity of the animals as one argument for retaining this species in the genus *Kellia* in opposition to the opinion of M. Recluz, who forms of it, with other small species, his genus *Poronia*. M. Recluz's description of the animal of *Poronia* is, as applied to this species, entirely erroneous.

J. ALDER.

Notice of a fractured and repaired Argonauta argo.

By C. B. ADAMS, Prof.

The familiar examples of the repair of the shells of Mollusca are interesting, since they illustrate the mode of growth of the shell.

We have before us examples in which the whole of the last whorl has been destroyed and reproduced. On account of the extraordinary relations subsisting between the animal and the shell in the genus *Argonauta*, a fractured and repaired shell possesses more than usual value.

In the collection of shells in the cabinet of Amherst College is an individual of the *Argonauta argo*, which appears to furnish an additional argument in support of the opinions which are based on the researches of Madame Power. In this shell a portion has been